

and 8, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 236; YEA on Roll Call No. 237; YEA on Roll Call No. 238; and YEA on Roll Call No. 239.

RECOGNIZING THE 193RD SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the outstanding Airmen of the 193rd Special Operations Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, for earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award—for the 19th time. This highly prestigious award recognizes the Wing's exceptionally meritorious service from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2019.

During this period, this one-of-a-kind unit deployed more than 400 Service Members globally across 20 nations, filling numerous Reserve Component Posture taskings and missions. The specialized EC-130J Commando Solo aircraft flew 115 combat missions and executed 1,009 broadcast hours, meeting all Central Command requirements while achieving an overall 1,463 sorties and 3,924 flight hours.

During the same period, the Wing also distinguished itself by deploying its world-class Airmen from their Engineering Installation, Red Horse, Security Forces, Air Operations Center, Communications, Air Support Operations and Medical units who expertly supported overseas contingency missions. Collectively, the Wing supported counter-terrorism/counter-narcotics operations as well as named Operations Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel, Spartan Shield, Atlantic Resolve, and Resolute Support, altogether advancing our military's effectiveness on the battlefield while protecting our Nation and our American way of life.

The Airmen of the 193rd Special Operations Wing consistently demonstrate excellence in their training and operations across our Nation and around the world. On behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, we're honored to be the home of such a distinguished unit, and I commend the Wing for earning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award—again. I extend my heartfelt thanks to them for their hard work, tireless dedication and steadfast service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call vote No. 239 on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have

voted Yea on H.R. 8354, Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act.

This bill would create the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Justice Department. As a United States Marine, I am strongly committed to providing for our national defense and taking care of the men and women who sacrificed everything for our freedom.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MARIO R. JORGE, P.E., SAN ANTONIO DISTRICT ENGINEER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Mr. Mario R. Jorge. Mr. Jorge is retiring after serving the Texas Department of Transportation for more than 36 years.

Mr. Jorge, at the age of 12, immigrated with his family from Cuba to the United States in 1974. While it was a challenging process for him and his family, they knew they were on the right path for a better future. Among the many difficulties he personally faced, Mr. Jorge started his education in the 7th grade without being able to speak a word of English. However, with hard work and diligence he was able to overcome this obstacle. He also found that he was particularly talented in the field of mathematics. Utilizing his skill in mathematics, Mr. Jorge went on to earn a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Texas as well as a professional engineer's license.

Mr. Jorge began his career with TxDOT as a member of the survey crew and as a construction inspector for the Pharr District in 1983. In 1984, he was employed at the Dallas District where he worked in construction inspection and roadway design. He then transferred to the Pharr District in 1985 where he worked for several years and received the TxDOT Design Award for the US 83/281 interchange project in Pharr, before being promoted to Area Engineer in 1993. However, through his continued hard work he was eventually promoted to District Engineer for the Pharr District in 2002. It was under his leadership and guidance that the district completed the expansion and designation of over 100 miles of interstate system on I-2 and US 69, as well as several international projects. Nonetheless, after many years of service with the Pharr District, he soon became the District Engineer for the San Antonio District in 2013. In San Antonio, Mr. Jorge led the district with an even larger project delivery portfolio which included expansions on US 281, I-10 West and East, 1-35 NEX, and LP 1604 North and South, an energy sector project delivery program, and countless other initiatives with local partners and stakeholders.

I have worked with Mr. Jorge for many years and witnessed first-hand his dedication to his work. A trait that he learned from his parents, who risked their lives and worked hard to realize the American dream. I also want to recognize him for being a strong lead-

er who made sure to always treat his colleagues with respect and care. A characteristic that allowed him to be successful in all of his endeavors.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Jorge on an outstanding career and wish him all the best in his next chapter of life. I also wish the best to his wife, Elsa, as well as his three sons and the rest of his family.

CONGRATULATING THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois in receiving the prestigious Abilene Trophy for its support of the men and women who serve at Southern Illinois' Scott Air Force Base.

Established in 1999, the Abilene Trophy is awarded every year in recognition of the best community support for an Air Force Base. This year, the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois was selected in part because of the growing Scott Patriot Program, which allows servicemembers to identify businesses, communities, and organizations that are designated as "military friendly." The partnership between the Leadership Council and Scott Air Force Base in the STEM and cybersecurity outreach programs provides local servicemembers and the surrounding community the opportunity to work together and energize the regional economy.

The Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and Scott Air Force Base play a vital role in our nation's military readiness. As Southwestern Illinois' largest employer, Scott Air Force Base is a nationally-respected military installation. We couldn't be happier to have organizations like the Leadership Council supporting their mission.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois and Scott Air Force Base for this incredible partnership. On behalf of Illinois' 12th Congressional District, congratulations!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was notified that I was exposed to COVID-19 and am following quarantine guidelines set by the CDC.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: on Roll Call No. 233 (S. 2981)—NAY; on Roll Call No. 234 (MTR for H.R. 3884)—YEA; on Roll Call No. 235 (H.R. 3884)—NAY; on Roll Call No. 236 (H. Res. 512)—YEA; on Roll Call No. 237 (S. 461)—YEA; on Roll Call No. 238 (H.R. 6395)—YEA; and on Roll Call No. 239 (H.R. 8354)—YEA.